

**RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS  
GAS SERVICES DIVISION**

**GAS UTILITIES  
INFORMATION BULLETIN**

**No. 715**



**RAILROAD COMMISSION  
OF TEXAS**

**Michael L. Williams, Chairman  
Charles R. Matthews, Commissioner**

**Steve Pitner  
Director  
Gas Services Division**

**January 10, 2003**

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**SECTION 1**  
**NEW APPEALS AND APPLICATIONS FILED**

**DOCKET NO.** -- 9349  
**CAPTION** -- Inquiry into the failure of West Texas Gas, Inc. to comply with safety standards.  
**DATE FILED** -- 12/13/2002  
**FILED BY** -- Commission's Own Motion  
**EXAMINER** -- Lowell Williams

**DOCKET NO.** -- 9352  
**CAPTION** -- Statement of Intent filed by Greenlight Gas to change rates in the environs of the cities of Clarendon, Dodson, Estelline, Hedley, Lakeview, Memphis, Paducah and Wellington, Texas.  
**DATE FILED** -- 12/27/2002  
**FILED BY** -- Jamie Nielson  
**EXAMINER** -- Michelle Lingo

**DOCKET NO.** -- 9353  
**CAPTION** -- Statement of Intent filed by TXU Gas Distribution to increase rates in the environs of the Hill Country Distribution System.  
**DATE FILED** -- 1/10/2003  
**FILED BY** -- Myles F. Reynolds  
**EXAMINER** -- Mark Brock

**CASES REFERRED TO SOAH**

**DOCKET NO.** -- 9291  
**CAPTION** -- Request of Texas General Land Office for immediate action to stay abandonment and for establishment of transportation rate on Panther Pipeline, LTD.  
**DATE REFERRED TO SOAH** -- 06/28/2002  
**SOAH DOCKET NO.** -- 455-02-3446  
**SOAH ALJ** -- Wendy Harvel

**DOCKET NO.** -- 9313  
**CAPTION** -- Petition for review of TXU Gas Distribution from the actions of the City of Arlington, et al.  
**DATE REFERRED TO SOAH** -- 08/21/2002  
**SOAH DOCKET NO.** -- 455-02-4058  
**SOAH ALJ** -- Kerry Sullivan

**SECTION 2**  
**APPEALS AND APPLICATIONS SET FOR HEARING OR PREHEARING CONFERENCE**

None at this time.

**SECTION 3**  
**STATUS OF PENDING CASES**

**DOCKET NO.** -- 9245  
**CAPTION** -- Formal Petition and Complaint of Rates Charged by Gulf Coast Pipeline Company.  
**DATE OF ACTION** -- January 7, 2003  
**STATUS** -- Motion for rehearing denied.  
**EXAMINER** -- Betsy Todd

**SECTION 4**  
**NOTICES OF DISMISSAL**

None at this time.

**SECTION 5**  
**ORDERS OF THE COMMISSION**

None at this time.

**SECTION 6**  
**MISCELLANEOUS**

**STEVE PITNER, GAS SERVICES DIVISION DIRECTOR**

**1. OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR**

**A. Publications**

1. Texas Utilities Code Titles 3 and 4. Special Rules of Practice and Procedure and Substantive Rules - \$15.00
2. a. Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2001 – Now available via the Commission’s website at:  
<http://www.rrc.state.tx.us/divisions/gs/tablecontents01.html>
  - a. Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2000 - \$17.00 (includes statistical data for 1999)
  - b. Annual Report for Fiscal Year 1999 - \$9.00 (includes statistical data for 1998)
  - c. Annual Report for Fiscal Year 1998 - \$7.00 (includes statistical data for 1997)
3. **2002 Pipeline Safety Rules - \$13.00, includes: 49 CFR 191 & 192 and 16 TAC Sections 7.70-7.74 (gas) 49 CFR 193 (LNG); 49 CFR 195 and 16 TAC Sections 7.80-7.87 (hazardous liquids); 49 CFR 40 and 199 (drug testing).**
4. Distribution and/or Gas Transmission Review forms for Adequacy of Operation, Maintenance and Emergency Manual - To obtain a copy of review forms at no charge, send a request with a self addressed envelope (10" x 13"preferably) with \$0.98 postage.
5. Six MCF Monthly Residential Gas Bill Analysis for Twenty-five Texas Cities - \$2.00 – Now available via the Commission’s website at: <http://www.rrc.state.tx.us/divisions/gs/rap/sixmcf.html>

Anyone who wishes to obtain a copy of any of the publications or maps listed in Section A should contact the Gas Services Division, P. O. Box 12967, Austin, Texas 78711-2967, (512) 463-7167.

**B. Interest Rate on Customer Deposits**

We have been advised by the Public Utility Commission that the interest rate to be applied to customer deposits in calendar year 2003 is 6.00%. All gas utilities should use this rate.

**2. PIPELINE SAFETY SECTION**

A. Austin Headquarters - William B. Travis Building  
1701 North Congress, (78701)  
PO Box 12967  
Austin, Texas 78711-2967 Telephone (512) 463-7058

Mary L. McDaniel, P.E., Assistant Director  
William (Bill) Dase, Jr., P.E., Engineer  
Terry Pardo, P.E., Engineer  
K. David Born, Field Operations Manager  
Lee Thying, P.E., Engineer  
Maurice Curd, Program Administrator

Amarillo Region 1 - 7102 IH-40 West, Bldg. C., Amarillo, Texas 79106 Telephone (806) 468-7486

Alan Mann, Engineering Specialist

Midland Region 2 - Petroleum Building, 214 West Texas, Suite 803, Midland, Texas 79701 Telephone (915) 570-5884

Glenn Taylor, Area Supervisor (Midland/Amarillo)  
Larry Felio, P.E., Engineer  
Keith Smith, Engineering Specialist  
Tim Murray, Engineering Specialist (Abilene)

Kilgore Region 3 - 619 Henderson Boulevard, Kilgore, Texas 75662 Telephone (903) 984-8581

Bob Oldham, Engineering Specialist  
James Alexander, Engineering Specialist  
Jerry Hill, Engineering Specialist

Austin Region 4 - 1701 North Congress, P. O. Box 12967, Austin, Texas 78711 Telephone (512) 463-7050

Kendall Smith, Area Supervisor  
Johnny Burgess, Engineering Specialist  
Mark Arguelles, Program Administrator

Houston Region 5 -1706 Seamist Drive, Ste 501, Houston, Texas 77008-3135 Telephone (713) 869-8425

Danny Nichols, Area Supervisor  
Jerry Hoff, Engineering Specialist  
Jim Arnold, Engineering Specialist  
Randy Vaughn, Engineering Specialist  
Gregory Johnson, Engineering Specialist  
Frank Henderson, Engineering Specialist  
John Jewett, Engineering Assistant

Dallas Region 6 -1546 Rowlett Rd., Suite 107, Garland, Texas 75043 Telephone (972) 240-5757

Jody Kerl, P.E., Area Supervisor (Dallas/Kilgore)  
M. Kathryn Williams-Guzman, Engineering Specialist  
San Sein, Engineering Specialist  
Terry Sullivan, Engineering Assistant

Corpus Christi Region 7 -10320 IH-37, P.O. Box 10307, Corpus Christi, Texas 78460-0307 Telephone (361) 242-3117

Don Gault, Area Supervisor  
Steven Rios, Engineering Specialist  
Jesse Cantu, Jr., Engineering Specialist  
Ronda Lauderman, Engineering Assistant

**B. Monthly Summary (September)**

No. of distribution safety evaluations – 75  
No. of transmission safety evaluations - 38  
No. of liquid safety evaluations - 19  
No. of leak/calls - 49  
No. of accident investigations - 2  
No. of special investigations – 32

**C. Reporting of Pipeline Accidents**

1) NATURAL GAS

Accidents on intrastate gas systems involving \$5,000 property damage, a fatality or injuries, gas ignition, or that are judged significant must be reported by telephone within two hours, and the written report filed within thirty (30) days. Call the 24-hour emergency phone number (512)463-6788 to report an accident. For your convenience this priority phone line is used only to report emergencies.

2) HAZARDOUS LIQUIDS

Accidents on intrastate hazardous liquid pipelines reportable under 49 CFR Sections 195.50 and 195.52 and 16 TAC Section 7.84(a) must be reported by telephone within two hours and the required written report filed within thirty (30) days. Call the 24-hour emergency phone number (512)463-6788 to report an accident. For your convenience this priority phone line is used only to report emergencies.

**Rules and Regulations:**

[Federal Register: January 2, 2003 (Volume 68, Number 1)]

[Rules and Regulations]

[Page 56-57]

From the Federal Register Online via GPO Access [wais.access.gpo.gov]

[DOCID:fr02ja03-27]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Research and Special Programs Administration (RSPA)

49 CFR Parts 192 and 195

Pipeline Safety: Qualification of Pipeline Personnel

AGENCY: Office of Pipeline Safety, Research and Special Programs Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

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SUMMARY: The Research and Special Programs Administration's (RSPA) Office of Pipeline Safety (OPS) will conduct a public meeting to discuss progress in implementing the operator personnel qualification (OQ) rule for gas and hazardous liquid pipelines. OPS will introduce and describe the operator qualification inspection protocol development process and provide an opportunity for public comment. A panel of experts will respond to questions from the public.

DATES: The public meeting will be held on January 22, 2003, beginning promptly at 9 a.m. and will continue until 5 p.m. Persons wishing to make a presentation or statement at the meeting should notify Janice Morgan, (202) 366-2392, no later than January 15, 2003.

ADDRESSES: The public meeting will be held at the Hyatt Regency San Antonio (Riverwalk), 123 Losoya Street, San Antonio, TX 78205 (Tel: 210-222-1234; Fax: 210-227-4928; Web: <http://www.sanantonioregency.hyatt.com>. This meeting is free and open to the public. You may register electronically for this meeting at: <http://primis.rspa.dot.gov/meetings/MtgHome.mtg?&mtg=5>

Following presentations by OPS on operator qualification compliance and inspection protocols, the public will have the opportunity to provide comments and to submit documents for the record. Preregistered organizations and individuals will be afforded the first opportunity to make their presentations.

Although we encourage persons wishing to comment on operator qualification compliance and inspection protocols to participate in the public meeting, written comments will be accepted. You may submit written comments on operator qualification implementation and compliance issues to Richard Huriaux, U.S. Department of Transportation, Room 7128, 400 Seventh Street, SW, Washington, DC 20590-0001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: You may contact Richard Huriaux at (202) 366-4565, regarding the agenda of this public meeting. General information about OPS programs may be obtained by accessing OPS's Internet home page at <http://ops.dot.gov>.

Information on Services for Individuals with Disabilities. For information on facilities or services for individuals with disabilities

or to request special assistance, contact Janice Morgan, (202) 366-2392.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The operator qualification rules at 49 CFR 192.801 (for gas pipelines) and at 49 CFR 195.501 (for hazardous liquid pipelines) require every pipeline operator to have and follow a written personnel qualification program that includes provisions to identify covered tasks and to ensure that all persons performing these tasks are qualified to safely and effectively complete the tasks. By October 28, 2002, all gas and hazardous liquid pipeline operators should have completed the qualification of all individuals performing covered tasks on pipeline facilities.

On January 22, 2003, OPS will conduct a public meeting to discuss progress in implementing the operator personnel qualification rule for gas and hazardous liquid pipelines. OPS will present a detailed review of the development of the operator qualification inspection protocols.

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The meeting will provide an opportunity to review compliance with the operator qualification rule, to clarify operator qualification requirements, and to hear compliance issues from Federal and State pipeline safety personnel, industry, and the public. All persons attending the meeting will have an opportunity to comment on operator qualification compliance issues and to question the expert panel on the new operator qualification compliance protocols.

Issued in Washington, DC on December 13, 2002.  
Richard D. Huriaux,  
Manager, Regulations, Office of Pipeline Safety.  
[FR Doc. 02-32270 Filed 12-27-02; 4:07 pm]

BILLING CODE 4910-60-P



[Federal Register: January 2, 2003 (Volume 68, Number 1)]  
[Notices]  
[Page 155-156]  
From the Federal Register Online via GPO Access [wais.access.gpo.gov]  
[DOCID:fr02ja03-112]

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Research and Special Programs Administration (RSPA)

[Docket No. RSPA-02-14079; Notice 1]

Pipeline Safety: Pipeline Communications (Natural Gas and Hazardous Liquid Pipelines)

AGENCY: Office of Pipeline Safety, Research and Special Programs Administration (RSPA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: RSPA/OPS invites the public to a meeting on pipeline communications, including current RSPA initiatives, the development of American Petroleum Institute Recommended Practice 1162, integrity management communications, and pipeline performance metrics. This meeting is a continuation of a meeting held on February 12-14, 2001, to discuss pipeline integrity management and integrity management communications.

DATES: The public meeting will be on January 29, 2003, from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

ADDRESSES: Bellevue Community College, Carlson Theater, 3000 Landerholm Circle SE, Bellevue WA 98007-6484, (425) 564-2376. Driving directions and a map of the college can be found on Bellevue Community College's Web site: <http://www.bcc.ctc.edu>. To ensure sufficient seating, persons wishing to attend are encouraged to register for the meeting through the following Internet Web site: <http://primis.rspa.dot.gov/meetings>.

The public will have an opportunity to make short statements on the topics under discussion. Members of the public who are unable to attend in person can view the meeting over the Internet and submit questions through the RSPA/OPS Web site: <http://ops.dot.gov>. In addition, a transcript will be available approximately 30 days after the meeting.

Persons wishing to submit comments relating to the public meeting may do so by mail or delivery to the Dockets Facility, U.S. Department of Transportation, Room PL-401, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590-0001. The Dockets facility is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on Federal holidays. You should submit the original and one copy. Anyone who wants confirmation of receipt of their comments must include a stamped, self-addressed postcard. You may also submit comments to the docket electronically. To do so, log on to the Internet Web address <http://dms.dot.gov> and click on "Help" for instructions on electronic filing of comments. All written comments should identify the docket number RSPA-02-14079; Notice 1.

Information on Services for Individuals With Disabilities: For information on facilities or services for individuals with disabilities or to request special assistance during the telephone conference calls, contact Christina Sames (tel: 202-366-4561; E-mail: [christina.sames@rspa.dot.gov](mailto:christina.sames@rspa.dot.gov)).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Christina Sames (tel: 202-366-4561; E-mail: [christina.sames@rspa.dot.gov](mailto:christina.sames@rspa.dot.gov)). You can read comments and other material in the docket on the Internet at: <http://dms.dot.gov>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

RSPA/OPS's communication initiatives are intended to improve safety and environmental protection and to provide better assurance to the public about the safety of pipelines.

On February 14, 2001, RSPA/OPS held a public meeting to discuss pipeline integrity management and integrity management

communications.

Meeting attendees provided input on how State and local officials and the public could use and benefit from risk assessment information, how the consequences of potential pipeline failures should be characterized, how risk control actions should be described, and what operational information would be meaningful.

Additional information on that workshop can be found in the Dockets Facility at the Internet Web Site listed above and under Docket RSPA-00-7408.

Since the February 2001 meeting, RSPA/OPS has been exploring communication requirements for all pipeline operators to share information with community and State officials and the public about risks from pipelines, how pipeline risks can be managed and controlled, and how we know the pipelines are being operated safely. RSPA/OPS has also begun several initiatives to provide the public and local officials with pipeline educational material, training material for emergency officials responding to a pipeline accident, public outreach on damage prevention, and community assistance and technical service inspectors to assist communities with current and upcoming integrity management regulations.

The January 29, 2003, public meeting will be divided into three sessions. Each session will include presentations by RSPA/OPS, a panel discussion on that session's topic, and an open question and answer period. Panelists will include representatives from various communities, environmental organizations, first responders, city/county government, state government, and pipeline companies.

Session 1 will address the need for communications in regard to the integrity management programs. The panelists will provide their viewpoints on what information should be exchanged between pipeline operators and community officials and how this information should be provided. This session will include a discussion of a new RSPA/OPS program to provide community assistance and technical services to State and local officials, to assist with community damage

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prevention efforts, and to address questions about the safety of pipelines, research and development, and other program activities.

Session 2 will address pipeline performance metrics and will include a discussion on performance tracking and monitoring initiatives, RSPA/OPS data initiatives, and concepts in performance metrics on both a per company and industry aggregate basis. Panelists will discuss indicators that would be useful to judge the safety and reliability of a specific operator's program and the pipeline industry as a whole.

Session 3 will focus on adequacy of an initiative to develop a national consensus standard for pipeline operators to use in developing public awareness programs. This standard has been developed by the oil and gas industry and observed by OPS and NAPSR. This consensus standard, American Petroleum Institute Recommended Practice 1162 ("RP 1162"), and additional information on the project can be viewed on the following Internet Web Site: <http://www.api.org/pipelinepublicawareness>. RSPA/OPS is particularly interested in hearing the public's views on the completeness of RP 1162's sections on the information provided to local officials and on effectiveness measures.

The session will also address additional RSPA/OPS communication initiatives, the development of RSPA/OPS online source of information about pipelines ("Pipeline 101"), the National Pipeline Mapping System, a collaborative project with the National Association of State Fire Marshals to develop a first responder training program, and a project with the National Academy of Science/Transportation Research Board on the study of measures to prevent encroachment on pipelines.

All presentations and a meeting transcript will be available subsequent to the meeting in the docket at <http://dms.dot.gov> as well as at <http://primis.rspa.dot.gov>.

Issued in Washington, DC, on December 27, 2002.

Stacey L. Gerard,

Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety.

[FR Doc. 02-33109 Filed 12-31-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-60-P

**AUDIT SECTION****A. Maintains headquarters and three district offices as follows:**

Headquarters - William B. Travis Building

1701 North Congress, P. O. Box 12967, Austin, Texas 78701

Ed Abrahamson, Assistant Director

Telephone (512) 463-7022

Dallas District- 1546 Rowlett Rd., Suite 107, Garland, Texas 75043

Telephone (972) 240-5757;

Fax (972) 303-1897

Stephen Cooper, Auditor

Josh Settle, Auditor

Austin District- P. O. Box 12967, Austin, Texas 78711-2967

Telephone (512) 463-7022

Houston District- 1706 Seamist Drive, Suite 501, Houston, Texas 77008-3135

Telephone (713) 869-8425;

Fax (713) 869-3219

Dale Francis, Auditor

Margie Stoney, Auditor

Konata Uzoma, Auditor

Lekisha Churchwell, Auditor

Larry Alcorn, Auditor

**B. Gas Utility Tax, Annual Reports and Audit Reports**

Questions relating to gas utility tax, annual reports and audit reports, call Shannon L. Miller at (512) 463-7022.

**C. Available Information**

Copies of company annual reports (1994 to present), as well as information relating to any of the above, A through C, are available for review at the William B. Travis Building, Gas Services Division, 9th Floor, 1701 North Congress. All requests for copies must be made in writing and should be addressed to the Audit Section. Copies will be provided for a fee, depending on the volume of copy work desired, allow a minimum of five days for completion of requests. Inquiries regarding copies should be directed to the Audit Section at (512) 463-7022, or Fax your request to (512) 475-3180.

**4. REGULATORY ANALYSIS AND POLICY****A. Maintains the following office to assist you:**

Headquarters - William B. Travis Building

1701 North Congress, P.O. Box 12967, Austin, Texas 78711

Karl Nalepa, Assistant Director

Telephone (512) 463-7164

**B. Gas Utilities Information Bulletin**Published on the Commission's web site at: <http://www.rrc.state.tx.us/divisions/gs/rap/rapbls.html>.**C. Proposals For Decision**Published on the Commission's web site at: <http://www.rrc.state.tx.us/divisions/gs/rap/pfds.html>.**D. Tariff Filings**

Questions pertaining to the filing of tariffs and/or quality of service rules should be directed to Kathy Arroyo, Yolanda Lovelace or Sandra Soto at (512) 463-7164.

**E. Curtailments**

Curtailment questions should be referred to Sandra Soto at (512) 463-7164. Curtailment reports made Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., should be made to (512) 463-7164. Curtailment reports made during hours other than those specified above and holidays, should be made to (512) 463-6788, (512) 896-3863 (digital pager), (512) 892-1772 or (512) 280-5949.

**F. Compliance Filings**

Questions regarding gas utilities docket compliance filing requirements should be referred to Jackie Standard at (512) 463-7164.

**G. Complaints and Inquiries**

All complaints and inquiries relating to the gas utility industry should be directed to the Regulatory Analysis and Policy section at (512) 463-7164.

**H. Rules and Regulations:**

GUD No. 9221 Amendments to Quality of Service Rules

GUD No. 9253 New Rule for Relocation Cost Recovery Factor

GUD No. 9257 Amendments to §7.450 Gas Distribution in Mobile Home Parks, Apartment Houses and Apartment Units.

GUD No. 9275 Amendments to §7.512 NGPA Section 311 Rate Review

GUD No. 9276 Amendments to §7.511 TUC Section 102.054 Sale, Transfer, Merger Reviews

GUD No. 9277 Amendments to §7.305 Curtailment Rule

GUD No. 9303 Amendments to §7.465 Abandonment Rule

GUD No. 9334 Amendments to §7.310 System of Accounts

**5. HEARINGS AND LEGAL ANALYSIS****A. Miscellaneous**

Anyone wishing to obtain copies of appendices to Orders appearing in Section 5 of this Bulletin should contact the Legal Division at (512) 463-7017.

**B. Status of Pending Cases**

The status of all pending cases listed in Section 3 of this Bulletin is for informational purposes only and is complete up to the time of printing of this Bulletin. For a more accurate status of pending cases, please call the Legal Division at (512) 463-7017.